

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

The Honourable Luke Foley MLC

Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council
Shadow Minister for the Environment & Climate Change
Shadow Minister for Water
Shadow Minister for Energy

Mining and Industry Projects
NSW Department of Planning & Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001
May 30 2012



Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Coalpac Consolidation Project: Application No: 10_0178

I oppose the application by Coalpac to consolidate its Cullen Valley Mine and Invincible Colliery.

The project will have unacceptable consequences for the flora and fauna of the area as well as for surface and ground water. I am opposed to open-cut mining in the Ben Bullen State Forest. I have visited that State Forest and camped in it.

I am a supporter of the underground mining around Lithgow, but believe open cut mining must be more carefully considered as the above ground impacts are greater. I believe this project in particular must be rejected as the Ben Bullen State Forest has such high recreational, environmental and scenic values.

The Ben Bullen State Forest contains more than 400 native plant species which create habitat for 35 mammalian species of which 15 are threatened. Ben Bullen State Forest also forms part of an essential buffer along the boundary of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.

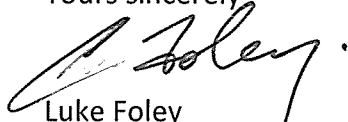
The uniqueness of the so-called "pagoda" geological formations is something we must be preserve for those who come after us. The striking quirkiness of this landscape should be seen as a tourism asset for the region.

I am also concerned about some of the assertions by conservationists that the Coalpac EA is inadequate and fails to accurately identify all the species affected by the proposal. It is essential that the documentation on which the Department is basing its assessment includes all pertinent information.

I support the call to convert Ben Bullen State Forest into a State Conservation Area. This will allow underground mining but ensure the plants, animals and geology which make the place so special are preserved.

I have not made any disclosable political donations.

Yours sincerely


Luke Foley

